

REMARKS

The specification has been carefully reviewed as requested. The specification and claim 8 have been amended to make the editorial changes identified in the Official Action.

Please note that line numbering is not a requirement for the disclosure.

Claims 1-13, 17-18, and 20-32 were rejected as unpatentable over MICHELSON et al. 6,665,730 in view of YAMAMOTO 5,991,276. Claim 19 was rejected as unpatentable over MICHELSON et al. and YAMAMOTO further in view of WANG et al. 6,636,505. Claims 14-17 were rejected as unpatentable over MICHELSON et al., YAMAMOTO and WANG et al. further in view of IZAWA et al. 5,796,734. The claims have been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The Official Action acknowledges that MICHELSON et al. does not disclose a teleconference system. Specifically, a transaction-based communication is carried out between switch node 105 and database node 140 that uses directory server nodes 120, 130 for directory and routing functions. The switch 105 initially formulates a database query data message, including its own node identifier in the application part of the message which provides a unique address for switch 105 (column 4, lines 65 to 67).

On the other hand, the directory servers 120, 130 need to translate the address for the destination node into a network

routable address to perform the routing function (column 5, lines 16 to 20). To this end, the directory server 120 reads (parsing) the received message to determine the destination database node. The destination database node is determined based on the routing information in the message and information stored locally (e.g., local memory) at directory server 120. Advantageously, the directory server can use a local look-up table to find the network routable address (e.g., AESA) based on the GTA, ANI, DN, or OLI contained in the received message to route the message to the destination node (column 6, lines 22 to 31). Thus, the directory server node translates the originally received address for the originating node to the network routable address (e.g., AESA) using the locally stored look-up table.

From this fact, it is understood that MICHELSON et al. does not disclose or suggest the necessity of arranging an ATM name system (ANS) exclusively used in a teleconference or about any problem peculiar to the ANS used in the teleconference. In other words, MICHELSON et al. never points out that a teleconference should not use a host name of a hierarchical structure and, as a result, does not consider a problem that may take place in connection with address resolution, as noted in the beginning of the instant specification.

YAMAMOTO discloses a multipoint videoconference system that delivers video and voice information along with various types of material data to provide a more realistic

teleconferencing environment. To this end, the system comprises a plurality of videoconference terminals, a videoconference server, and a videoconference administration server. As illustrated in Fig. 8, the videoconference administration server 10 comprises a data table 10a, a videoconference server interface 10b, a user terminal interface 10c, and a signaling unit 10d. The data table 10a stores information used in the schedule management including a reservation control system for the videoconference (column 8, line 65 to column 9, line 3). Specifically, the data table 10a stores a server number, a server ATM-address, server usage status, maximum simultaneous channels, reserved channels, reserved user terminal ATM-address, connection status, as illustrated in Fig. 9. The server number and the server ATM-address are identification numbers of the videoconference servers and their ATM network addresses, respectively (column 9, lines 14 to 17). The reserved channels indicate the number of user terminals that are scheduled to take part in the planned videoconference while the reserved user terminal ATM-address lists all the ATM addresses of those participant user terminals (column 9, lines 25 to 29).

With this structure, the user terminals 6a-6d communicate with videoconference servers 9a and 9b and the videoconference administration server 10 by exchanging ATM cells (column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 1). The videoconference servers 9a and 9b and the videoconference administration server

10 are connected through local area network (LAN) connections (column 4, lines 29 to 32).

In operation, if the user terminal 6a is attempting to make a reservation for a videoconference, the user terminal 6a accesses the videoconference administration server 10, initiating an SVC call via the signaling channel through a ch-C connection path (column 9, lines 39 to 45). The videoconference administration server 10 searches the data table 10a to find vacant videoconference server and to make a reservation (column 9, lines 50 to 54). Thereafter, the ch-C connection path between the user terminal 6a and the videoconference administration server 10 is disconnected when the reservation is finished (column 9, lines 55 to 57).

Subsequently, the videoconference administration server 10 provides the user terminal 6a with necessary information such as the ATM address to reach the relevant videoconference server 9a or 9b (column 10, lines 14 to 17). The user terminal 6a makes access to the videoconference server 9a, using the SVC services via the signaling channel. Two connection paths ch-A and ch-B are set up between the user terminal 6a and the videoconference server 9a. After confirming the path establishment of ch-A and ch-B, the videoconference administration server 10 disconnects the existing connection path ch-C between itself and the user terminal 6a (column 10, lines 19 to 26).

Thus, the videoconference administration server 10 delivers the necessary information such as the videoconference server ATM address to each user terminal and is thereafter disconnected from each user terminal. Moreover, the user terminal 6a itself should access the videoconference server 9a or 9b. This shows that each participant user terminal will set up the connection paths ch-A and ch-B to the videoconference server 9a (column 10, lines 28 to 30). The following videoconference is executed between the user terminals under control of the videoconference server 9a or 9b by making access to the videoconference server from each user terminal.

However, YAMAMOTO never points out any problem that might occur when an ANS is accessed by using a name that is different from a host name of a hierarchical structure. In addition, after a teleconference is reserved in YAMAMOTO, the videoconference server address (9a or 9b) is delivered from the videoconference administration server 10 to the videoconference terminal through the connection path and thereafter, each of the videoconference terminals should be individually accessed to the videoconference server 9a or 9b. No consideration is made in YAMAMOTO about videoconference between two points. In other words, multipoint videoconference alone is considered in YAMAMOTO. Therefore, all of the videoconferences should be executed through the videoconference server.

On the other hand, the present invention enables a videoconference between two points without any videoconference server also (as mentioned in claims 1 to 7), as well as a multipoint videoconference. Moreover, the multipoint videoconference according to the present invention is featured by informing an MCU of all AESAs assigned to attending conference room terminals, from the ANS (page 21, lines 2 to 4 of the instant specification). Thereafter, connections are established between the MCU and the terminals (page 21, lines 12 to 15). Thus, no MCU address is delivered from the ANS to the respective room terminals in the present invention and each room terminal may not access the MCU, which is completely different from YAMAMOTO.

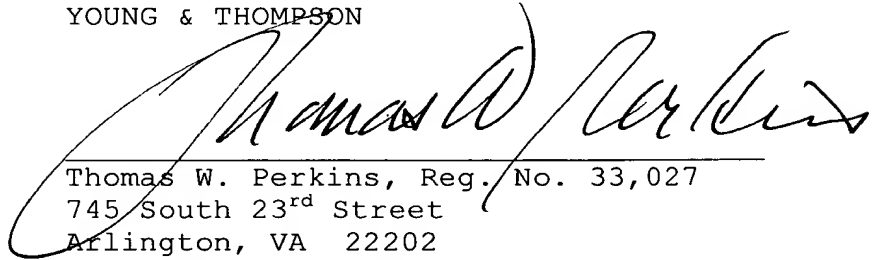
Accordingly, the amended claims are not obvious from the applied references and are therefore patentable over them.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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